



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
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**RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
CONGRATULATES ITS 2005 PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS**

An extensive mixed-use development on Bristol's historic waterfront; an innovative community history program in Pawtuxet Village; the renewed belfry and steeple of a 19th-century Wickford church; and an enterprising developer who rehabilitates historic buildings for affordable housing—these are some of the winners of the 2005 State Preservation Awards. People, properties, and projects will be honored at Rhode Island's 20th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at 9 am at the Newport Congregational Church in Newport.

The State Historic Preservation Awards are chosen by the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission from nominations by the public to honor individuals, organizations, and projects for their contributions to the preservation of Rhode Island's historic resources. Awards are presented in the categories of Projects, Education, and Stewardship. The RIHP& HC also bestows two special awards for volunteer service and professional service. The 2005 winners are:

- **Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award** to Noreen Drexel of Newport for her capacity to integrate historic preservation, community planning, and environmentalism through numerous projects that preserve individual buildings and entire areas.
- **Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award** to Joseph Caffey of Providence for setting the standard for urban redevelopment.
- **Education Award** for Voices and Visions of Village Life which presents arts, humanities, and science programs that serve as a model for presenting, interpreting, and preserving the strong sense of place within a Pawtuxet Village.

- **Education Award** for “Diversity Works: The History of Liberty of Conscience in Newport,” a collaborative program developed by the Newport Historical Society, Touro Synagogue Foundation, and Trinity Episcopal Church.
- **Stewardship Award** to St. Mary’s Church of Newport for its commitment to the highest possible preservation standards in the multi-phase restoration of their building.
- **Stewardship Award** to St. Joseph’s Church of Providence for its consistent and careful planning and high-caliber preservation of their house of worship.
- **Project Award** to Blessed Sacrament Church of Providence for the exquisite restoration of this little-known masterpiece of architecture, fine arts, and decoration.
- **Project Award** for Brown University for their thoughtful preservation of a mid-century Computing Laboratory designed by Philip Johnson.
- **Project Award** for The Hotel Providence, which relied on historic preservation as an economic-development strategy to create a 80-room boutique hotel in Downtown Providence.
- **Project Award** for Melrose Neighborhood Revitalization which rehabilitated ten historic houses to provide affordable living opportunities in Providence’s historic Elmwood neighborhood.
- **Project Award** for St. Paul’s Episcopal Church of Wickford, which shed aluminum siding and restored its belfry to recapture its mid-19th-century architectural character.
- **Project Award** for Thames Street Landing for a sweeping project which combined restoration, reconstruction, and new construction to revitalize Bristol’s historic waterfront.

The awards presentation kicks off the 20th Annual Historic Preservation Conference, to take place on April 23 from 8:30 am to 6 pm at various locations in Bristol. Titled “Preserving Historic Houses of Worship,” the day-long program will offer an education the subject of historic school buildings. Conference-goers will study architectural alternatives, planning and community issues, advocacy strategies, and architectural history, as well as a long list of other topics from window repair to waterfront redevelopment, and from scenic roadways to the archaeology of the Revolutionary War. Participants will also hear from experts in the field, tour historic sites, and network with counterparts from around the state.

Funding for the conference is provided by a National Park Service grant administered by the R.I.

Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission as well as additional support from the AIA/Rhode Island; Bristol Historical & Preservation Society; Preserve Rhode Island; Roger Williams University School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation; Armory Revival Company; Cornish Associates | Malcolm G. Chace; Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels; Foundry Corporate Office Center; Gilbane Properties; Newport Collaborative Architects; Public Archaeology Laboratory; Riverfront Lofts; Stanley Weiss Associates | The Hotel Providence; Struever Bros., Eccles & Rouse; Thames Street Landing; and The Historic Collaborative.

The conference is open to the public. To register or request more information, call **401-732-6335**, or visit our website **www.preservation.ri.gov**.

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